

AKIRA

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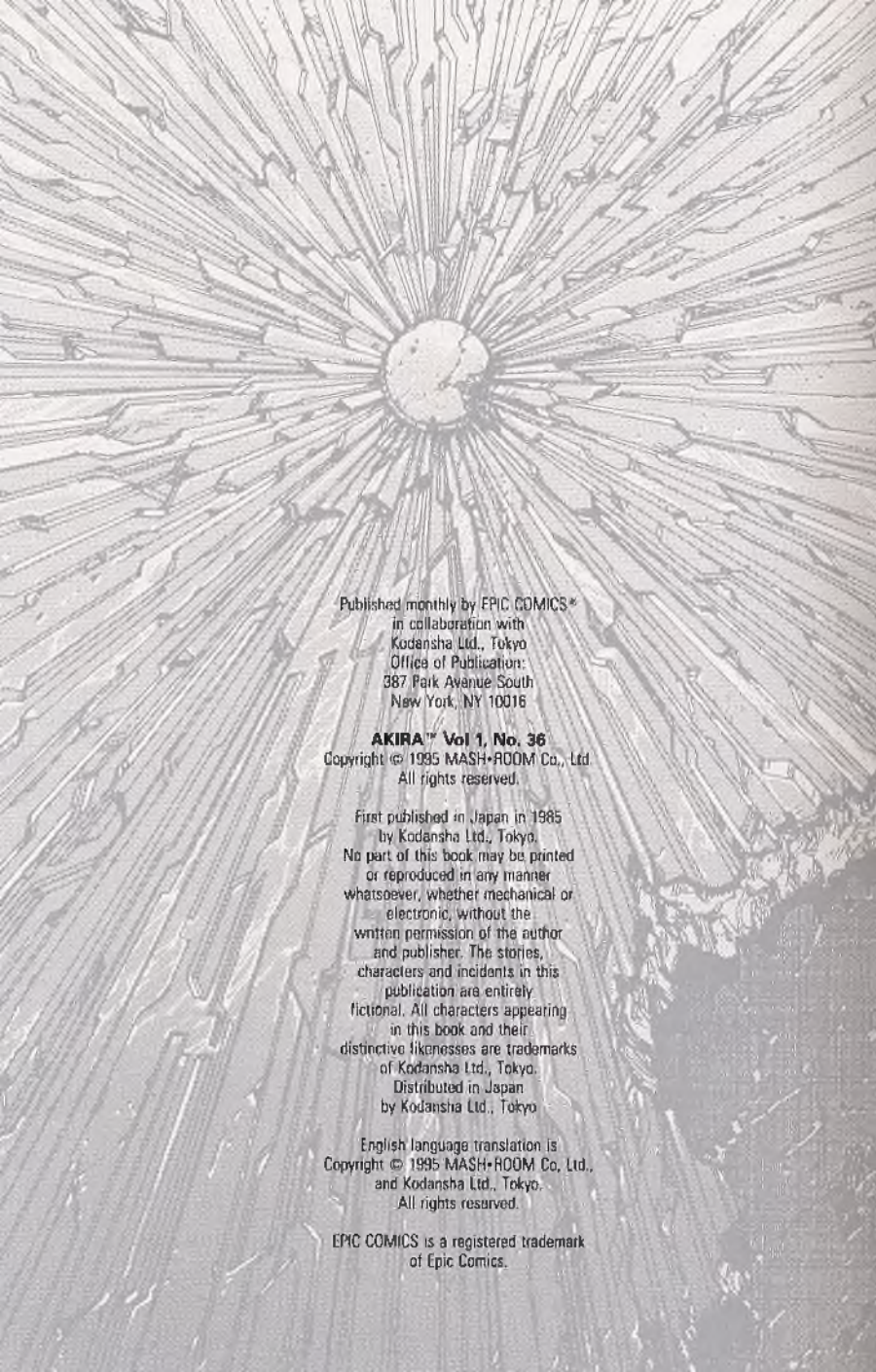
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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 36

MIYAKO'S LAST STAND

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** once controlled

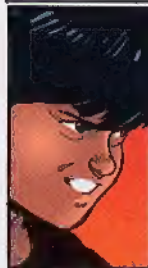
a number of psychic children, each identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** — Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako** —

Number 19 — now heads a great religious cult. **Number 41** is **Tetsuo**, who lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's SDF military satellite, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is **Number 28** —

Akira — a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, after he started the Third World War with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed — a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minis-



Kaneda



Masaru



Kai



Lady Miyako



ter. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed Juvenile A. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The

research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** can only lead to disaster.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**. **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers and strike as one.



Kaneda teams up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of



Tetsuo



Stanley Simmons



Akira



Joker



refugees and street rats to help Kay in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on.

Then, the international fleet in the harbor sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo**, causing chaos among all the combatants. Enraged, **Tetsuo** teleports himself to space, seizing control of an orbiting laser cannon. He fires the weapon at the fleet, and then brings it crashing down upon the flagship, killing the commanders and forcing mass evacuation of military personnel and the few scientists who survive.

Griefstricken over the death of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**, **Tetsuo** carries her body to the underground chamber where **Akira** once slept. Drawn by the similarity of their powers, **Akira** follows **Tetsuo**. Along the way, he is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**,

Chiyoko and **Ryu**. They plan to fight in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.

Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. For a moment, it seems that contact with **Kaneda** has restored **Tetsuo**'s humanity. Then, his power comes surging back, and **Kaneda** is drawn into his monstrous form, apparently consumed. As the battle rages, **Akira** becomes more alert. Terrified of what might occur if **Akira** fully awakes, **Ryu** panics. He draws a gun and shoots **Akira**, setting the boy's power free.

Seeking a new power source for himself, **Tetsuo** flies to Lady Miyako's shrine, with **Kay** in hot pursuit. **Lady Miyako** instructs **Kiyoko** and **Masaru** to look after **Akira**.



Kiyoko



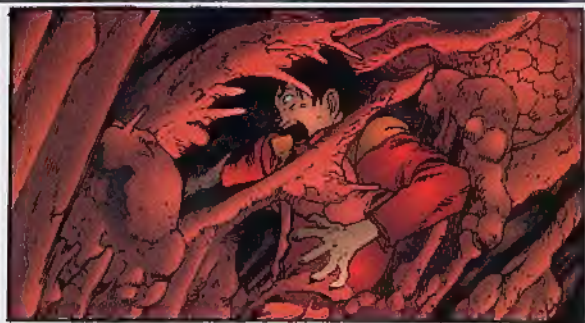
Kaori



Seer



Ryu



and the pair teleport away to help their friend. **Lady Miyako**, her followers, and **Kay** prepare to make a final stand against **Tetsuo**.

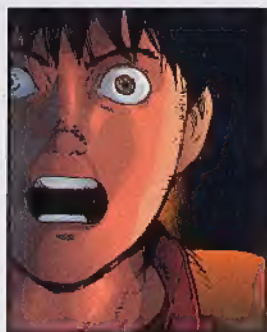
Kiyako and **Masaru** meet **Akira** on the psychic plane, and are joined by the spirits of all the gifted children who have died before, hoping to use Akira's power once more.

Telling **Kay** that the resolution depends on her, **Lady Miyako** heroically draws Tetsuo's attention to herself and is killed. As she dies, she, too, is drawn to the spirit plane, where the souls of friends who have gone before await. **Kay** is guided in battle by her late mentor's commands, and is able to break through to **Tetsuo**. His concentration interrupted, he is vulnerable, and is himself consumed by force from Akira's mind.

Trapped within Tetsuo's

soul, **Kaneda** experiences a fractured, kaleidoscopic journey through his late friend's life and hardships, sharing with **Tetsuo** both the good memories and the bad.

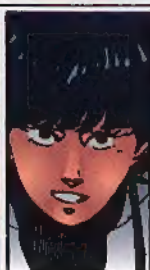
Kaneda is contacted by Lady Miyako's spirit, and is stunned by what she is told. Although **Tetsuo** and **Akira** were created in laboratories, they, and all the catastrophe they bring, are a vital part of mankind's future evolution.



Chiyoko



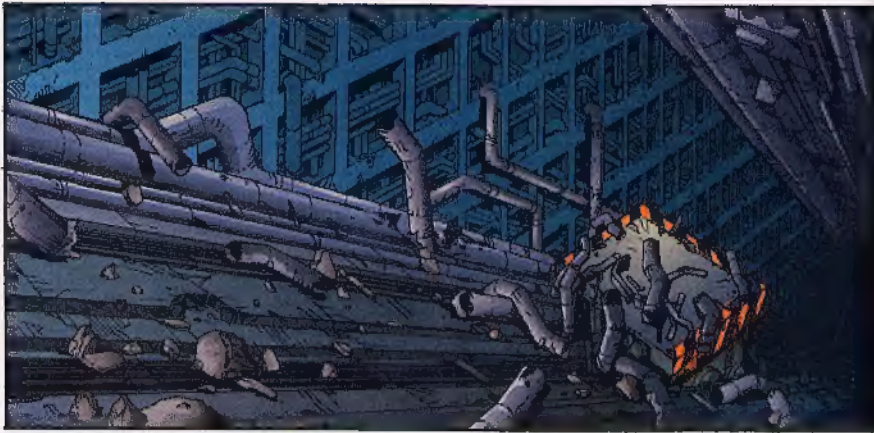
The Colonel



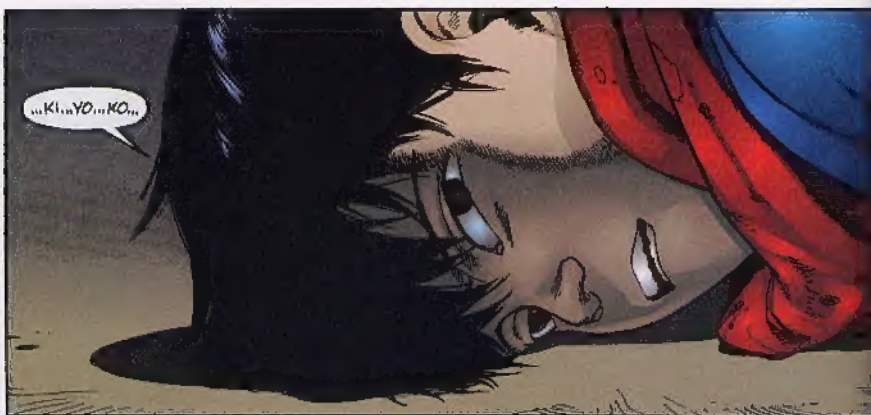
Kay



Lt. Yamada



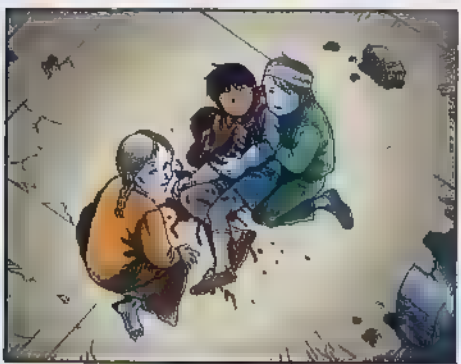
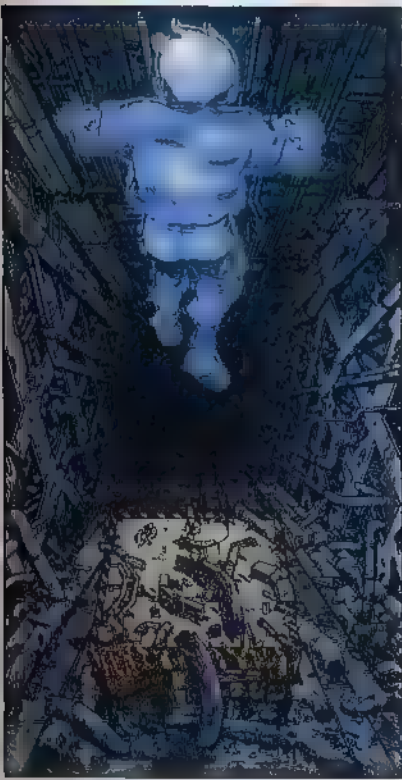
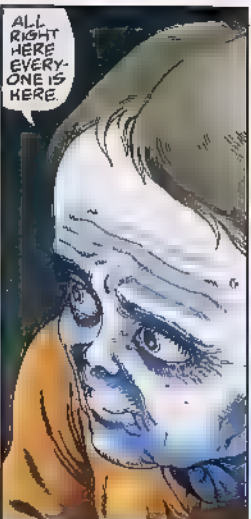


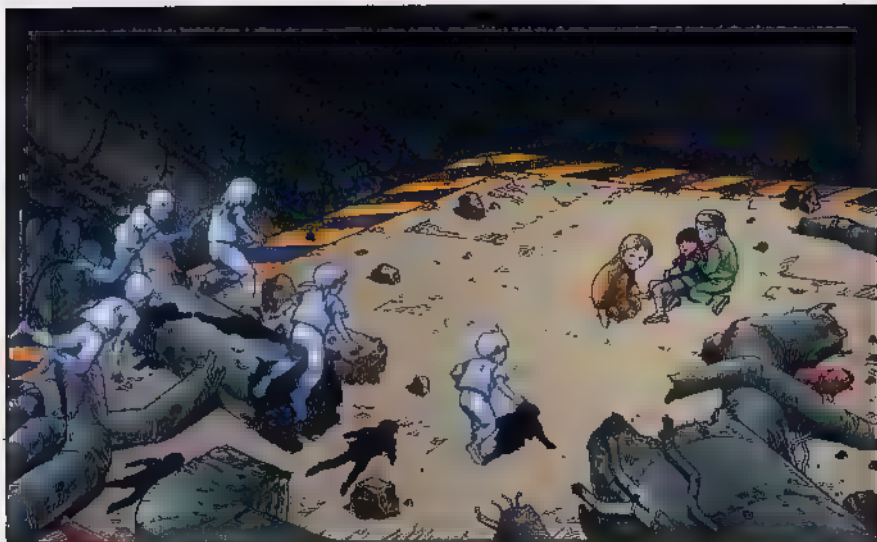


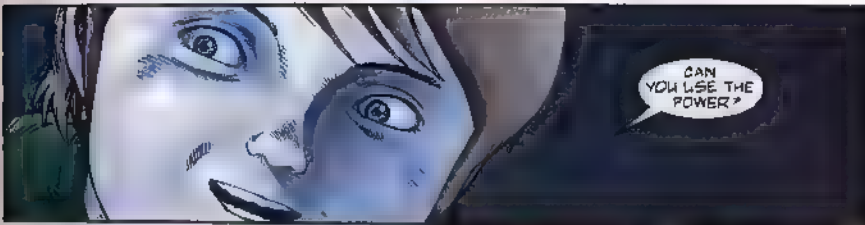
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TAKASHI...? THE
OTHERS...?

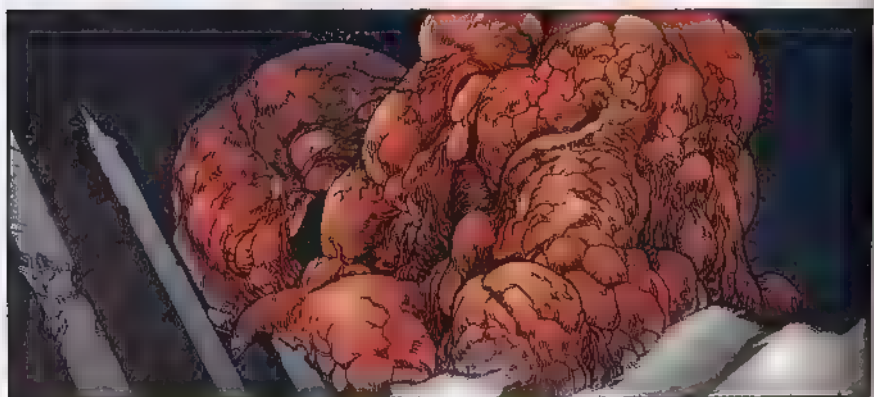
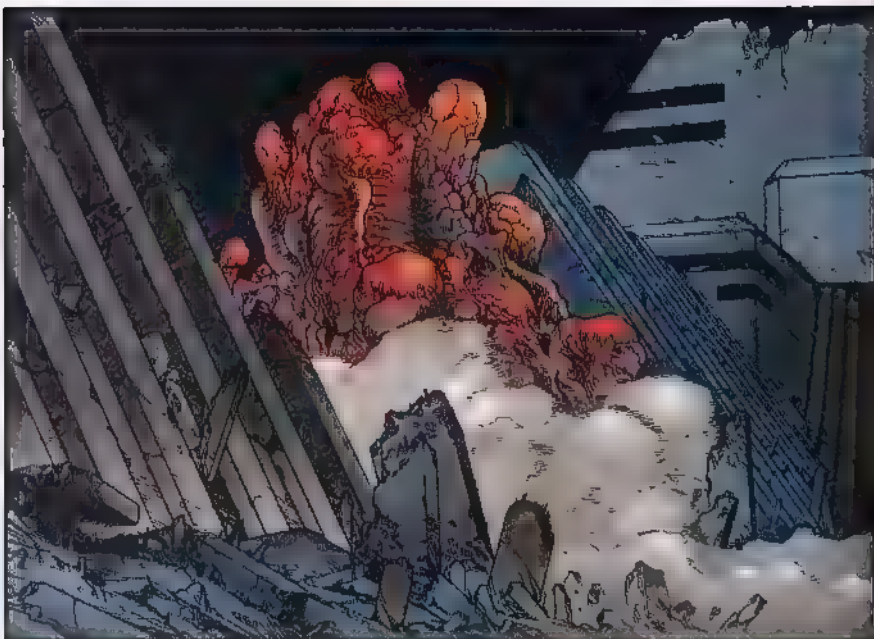


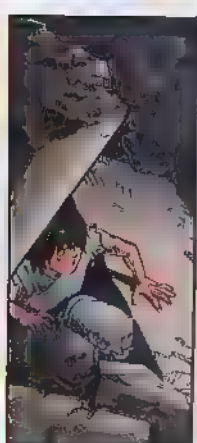
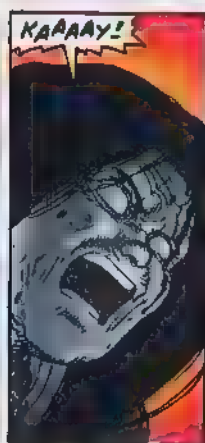
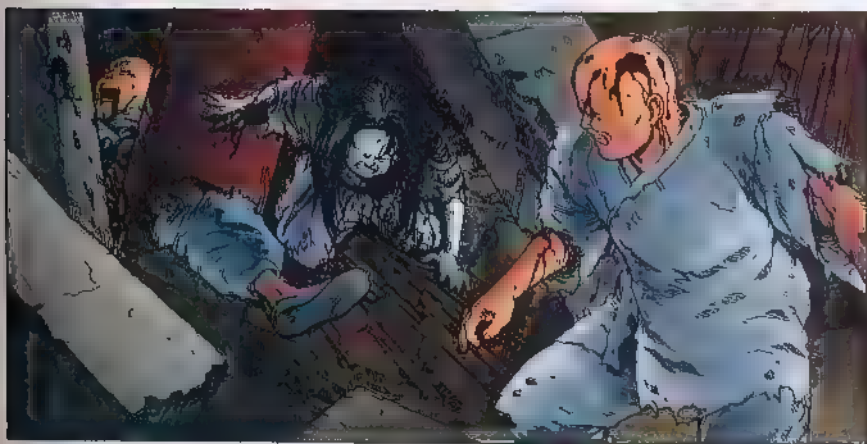
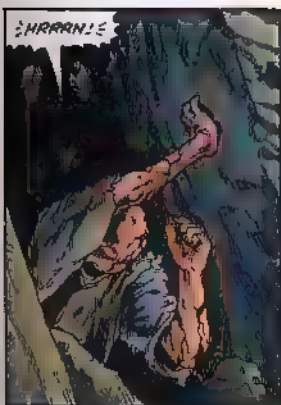
ALL
RIGHT
HERE
EVERY-
ONE IS
HERE

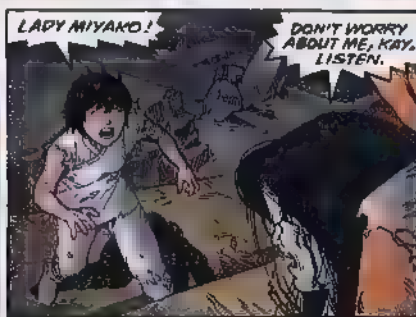
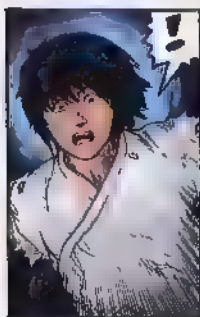
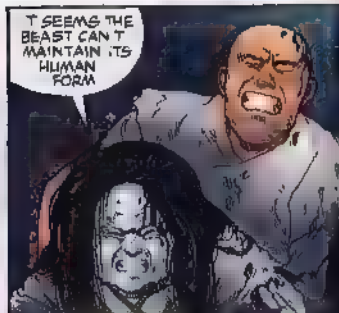
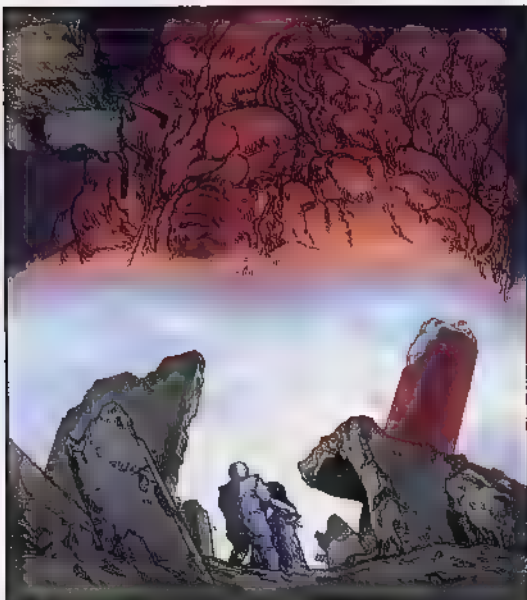




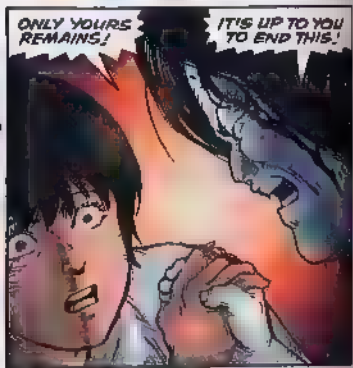
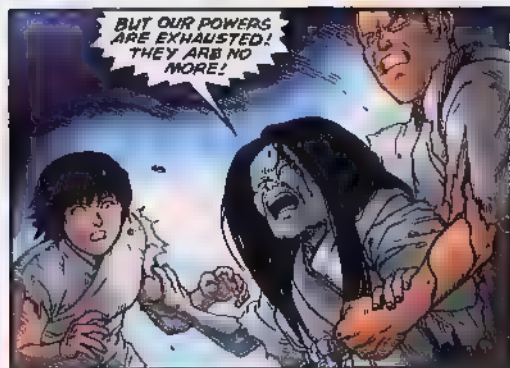
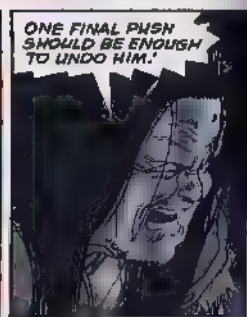




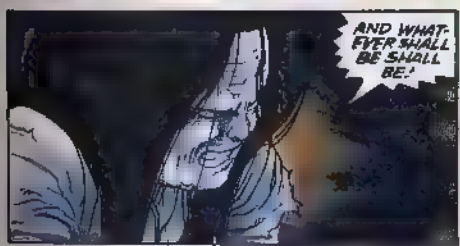
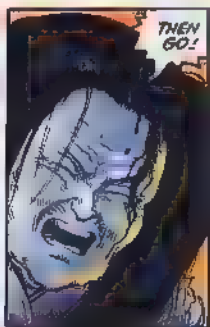
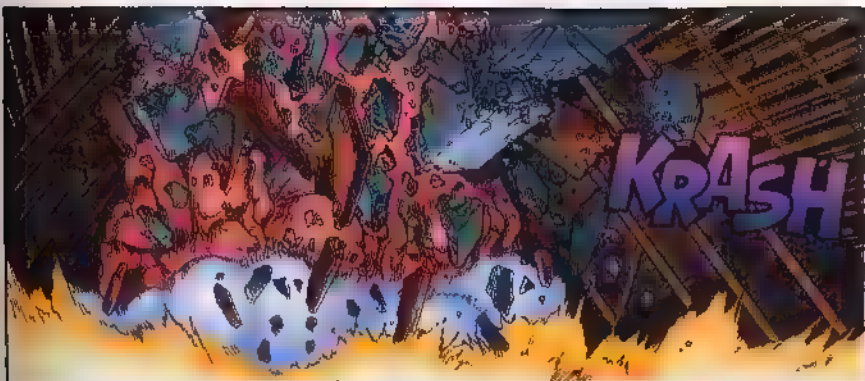


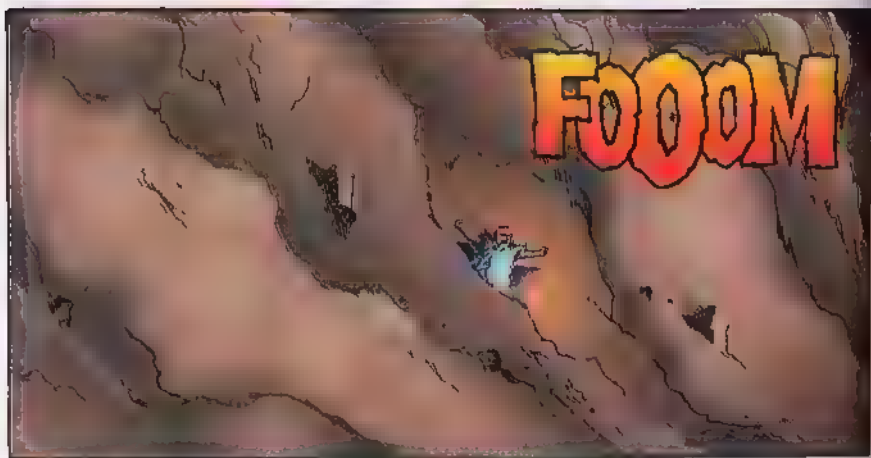


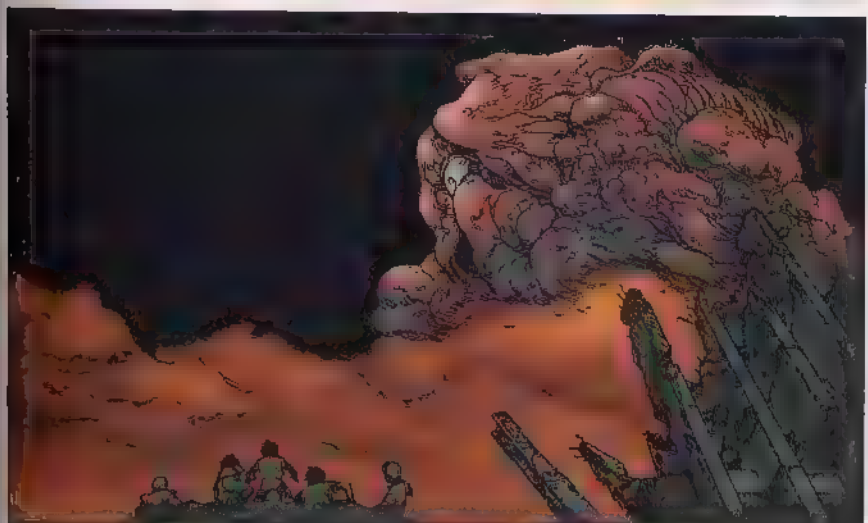
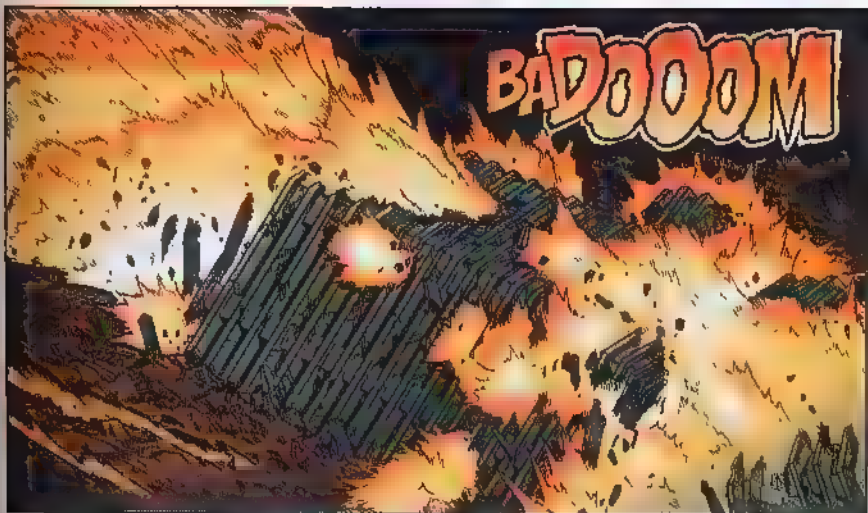
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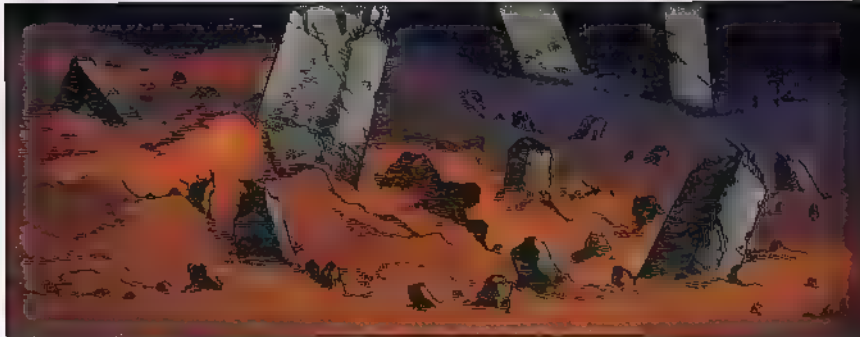


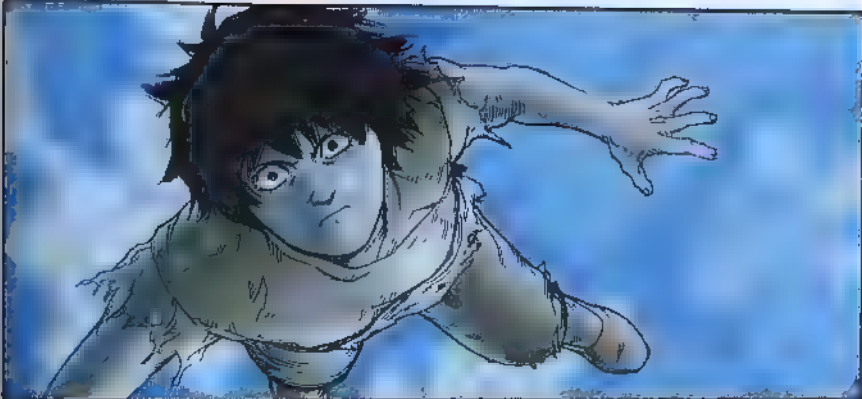
IT'S UP TO YOU TO END THIS!

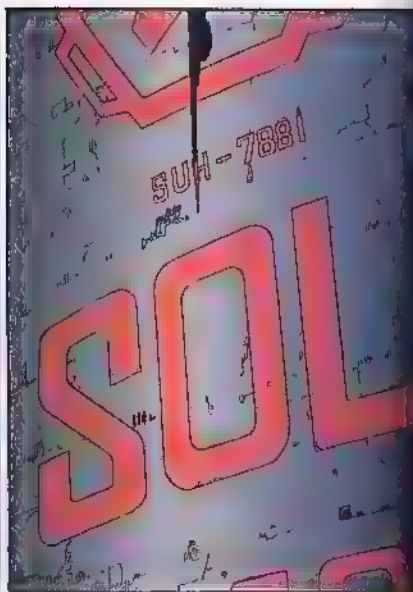
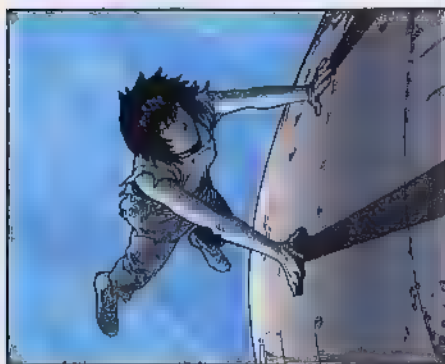


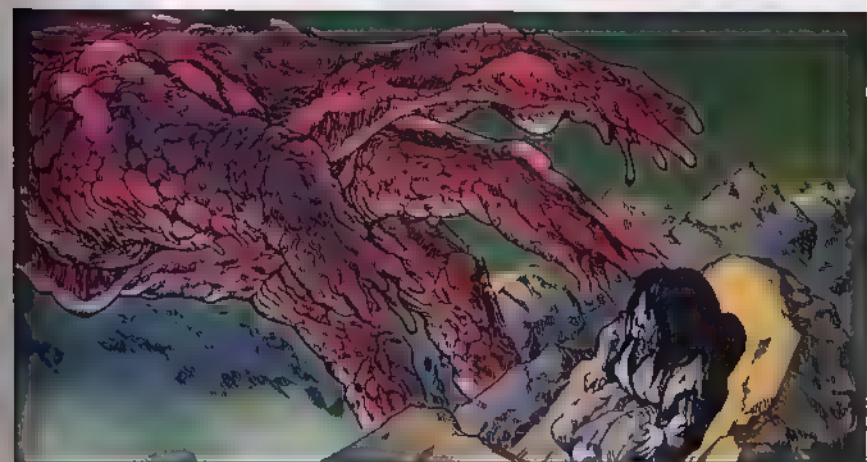
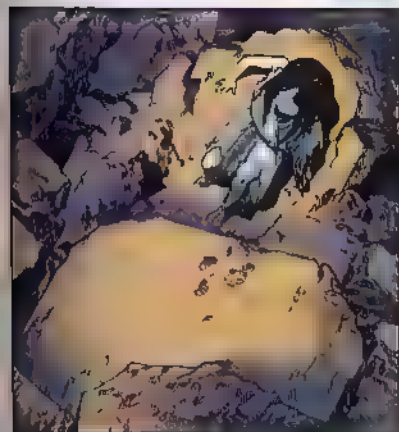
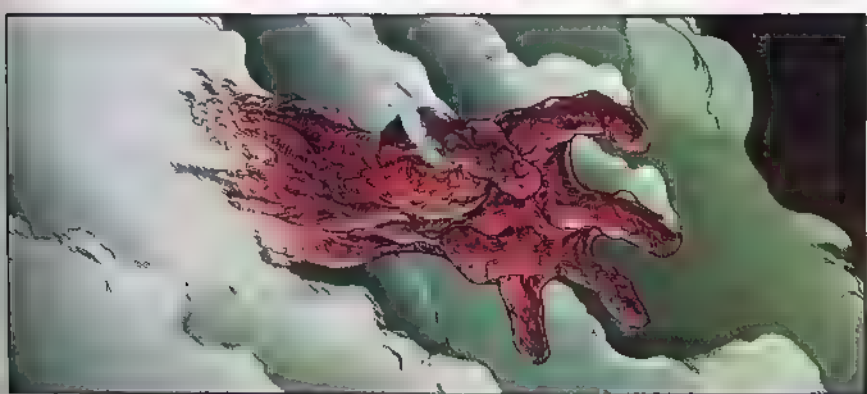


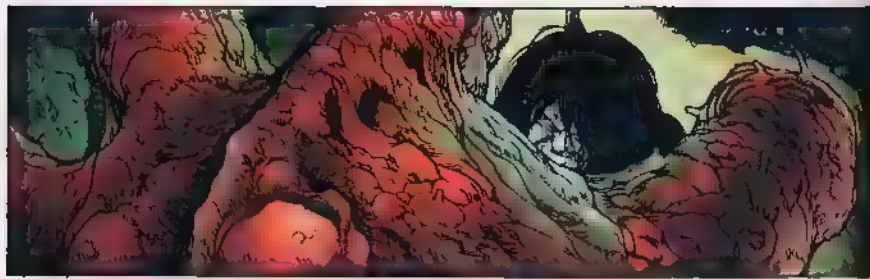








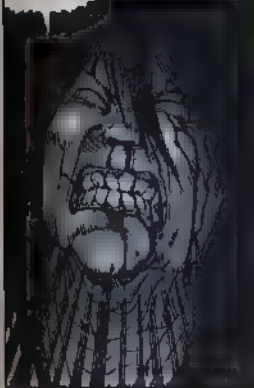


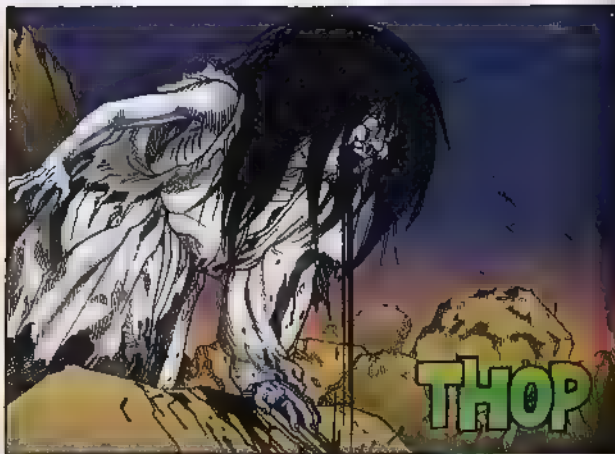


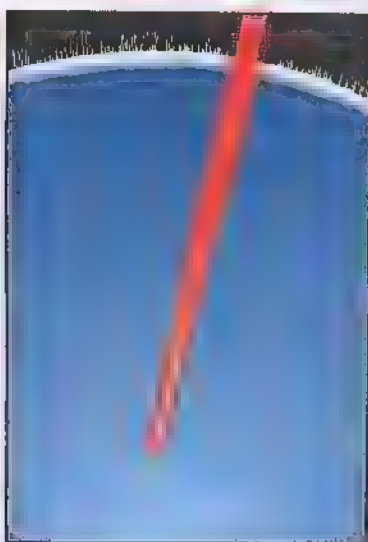
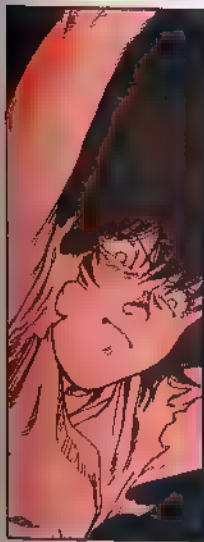
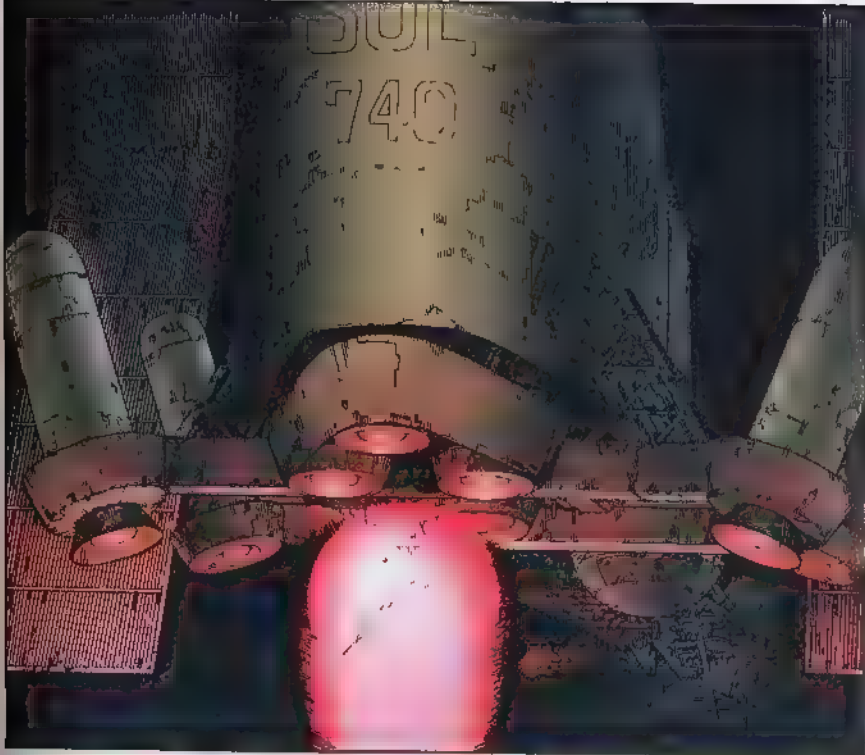
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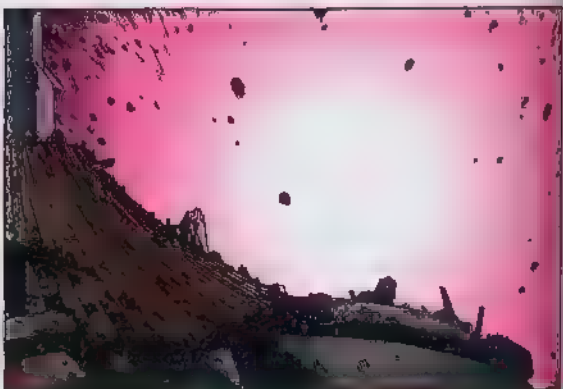
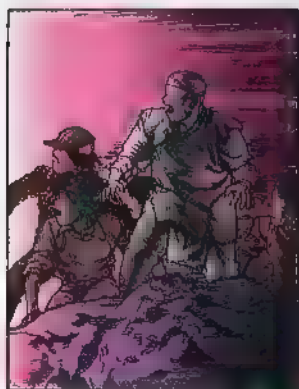


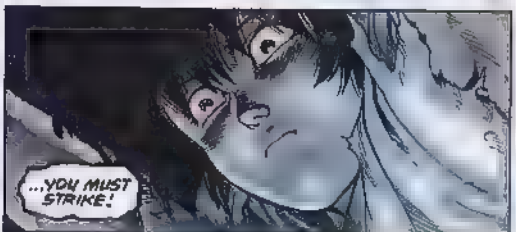
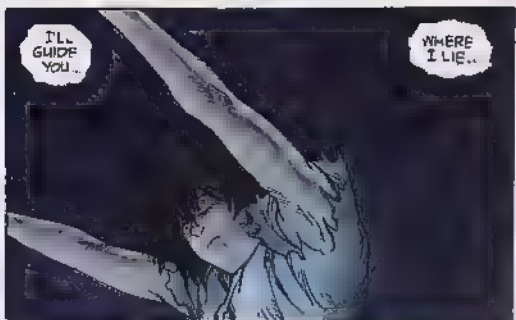
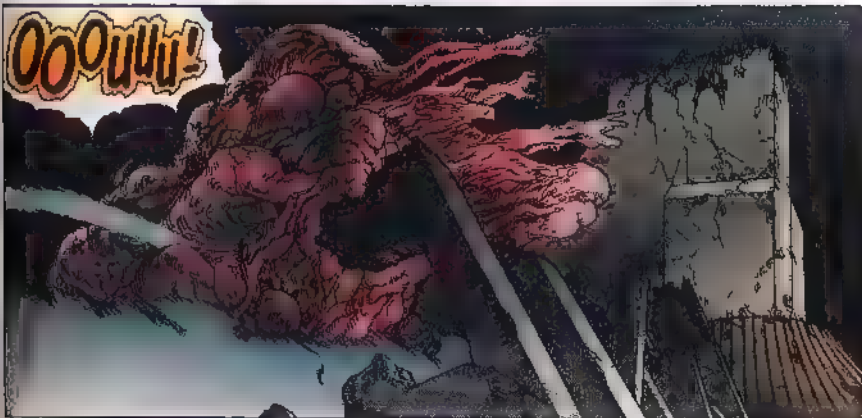
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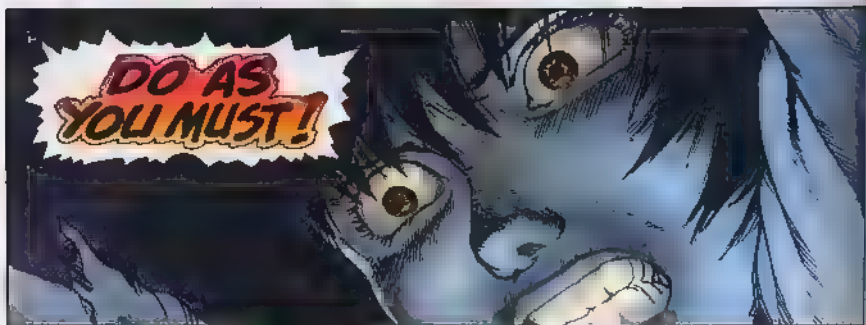
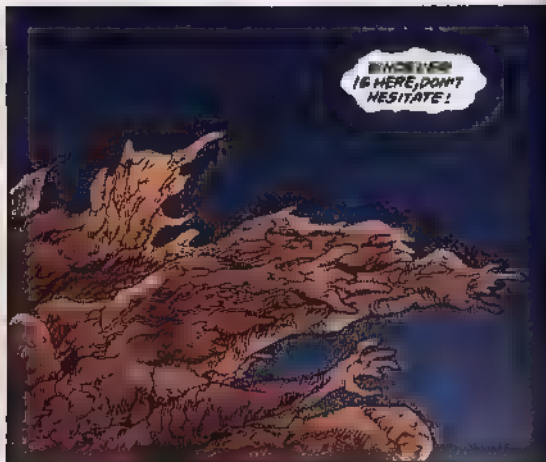


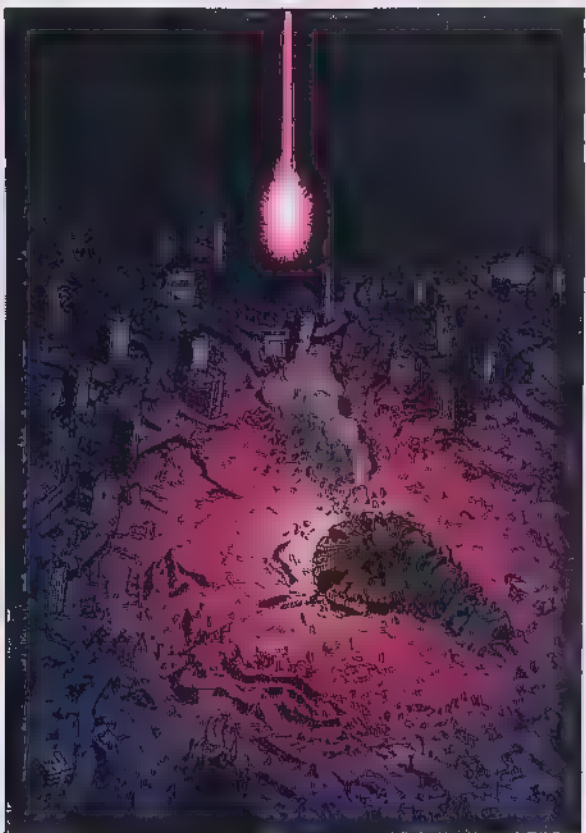
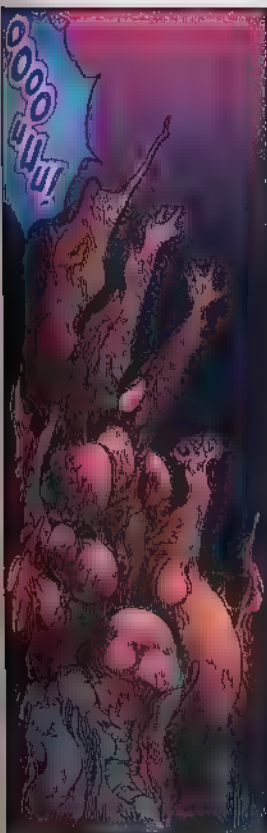


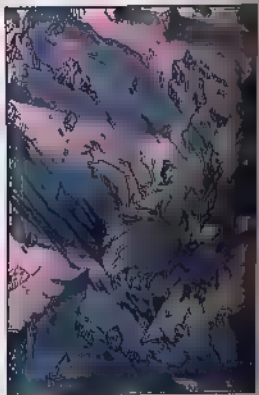
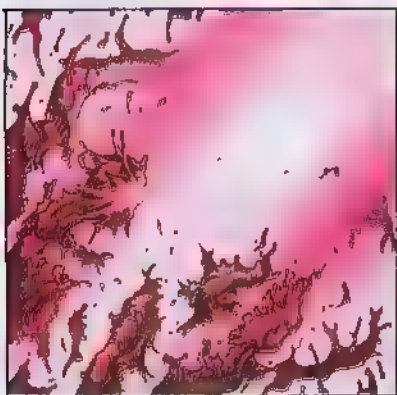
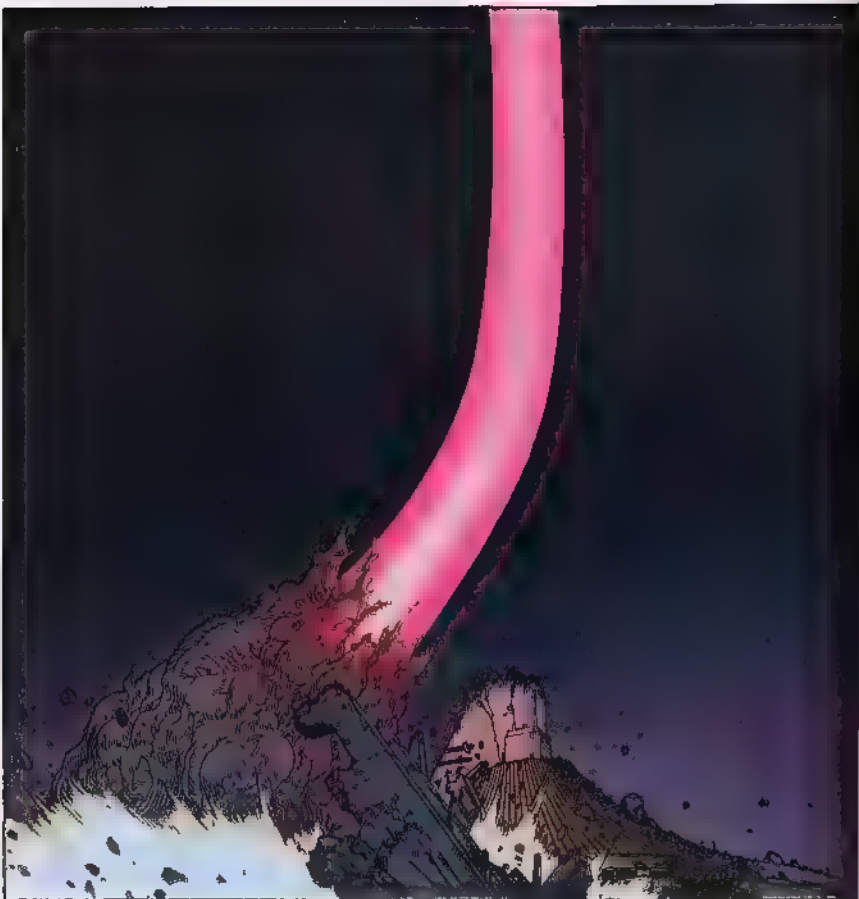


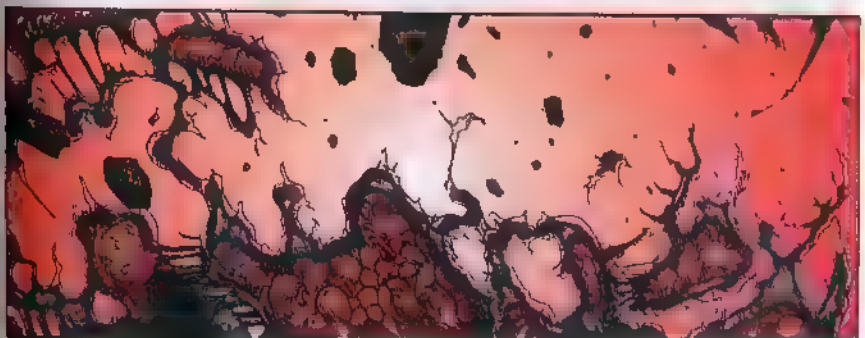
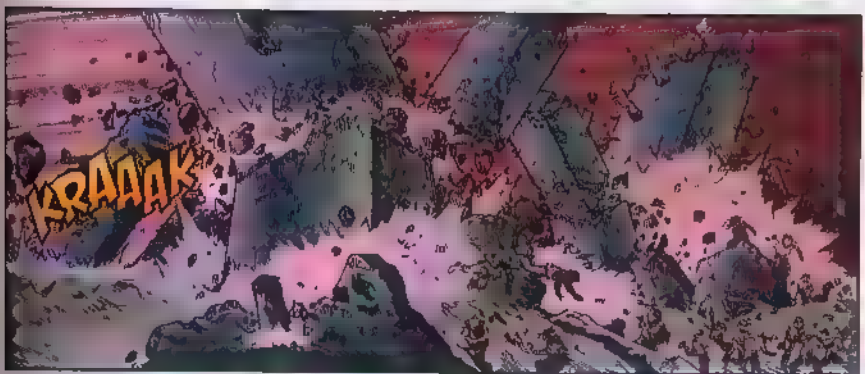
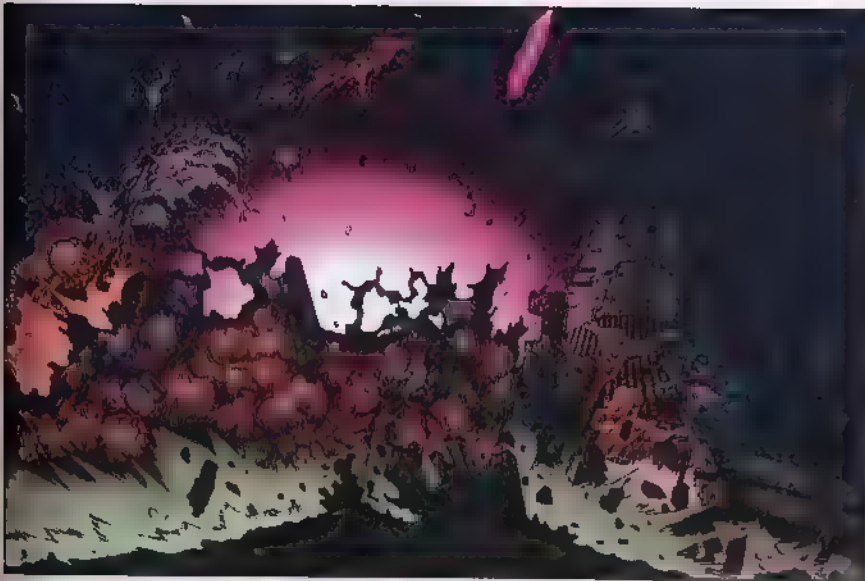


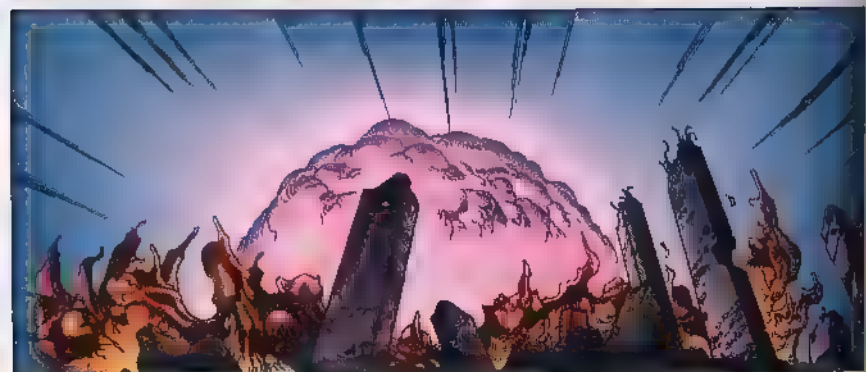
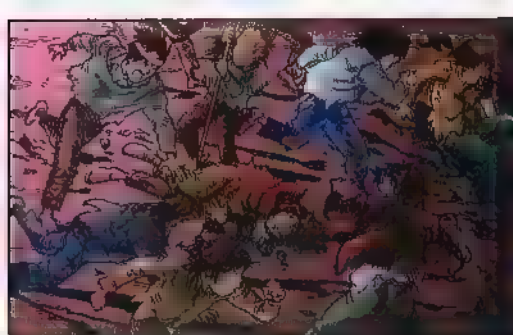


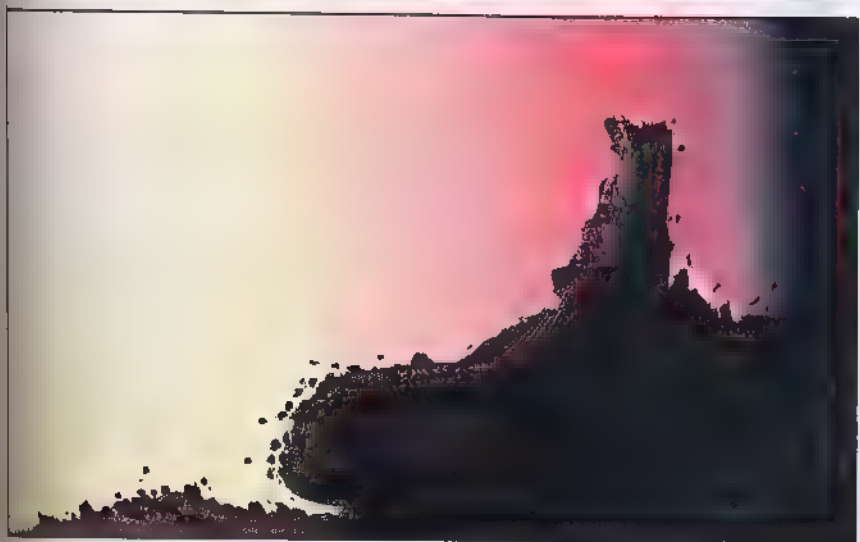


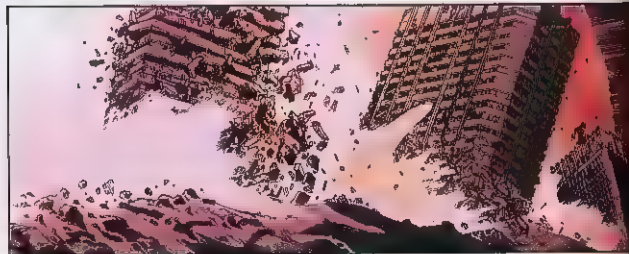
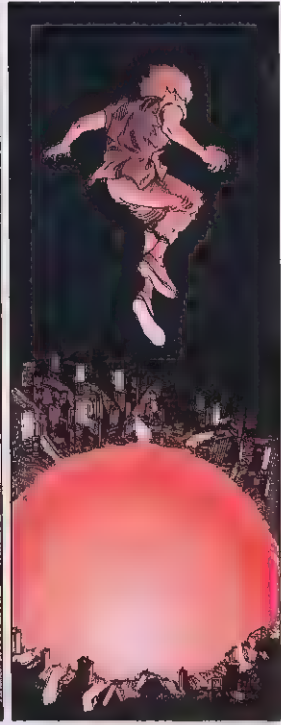
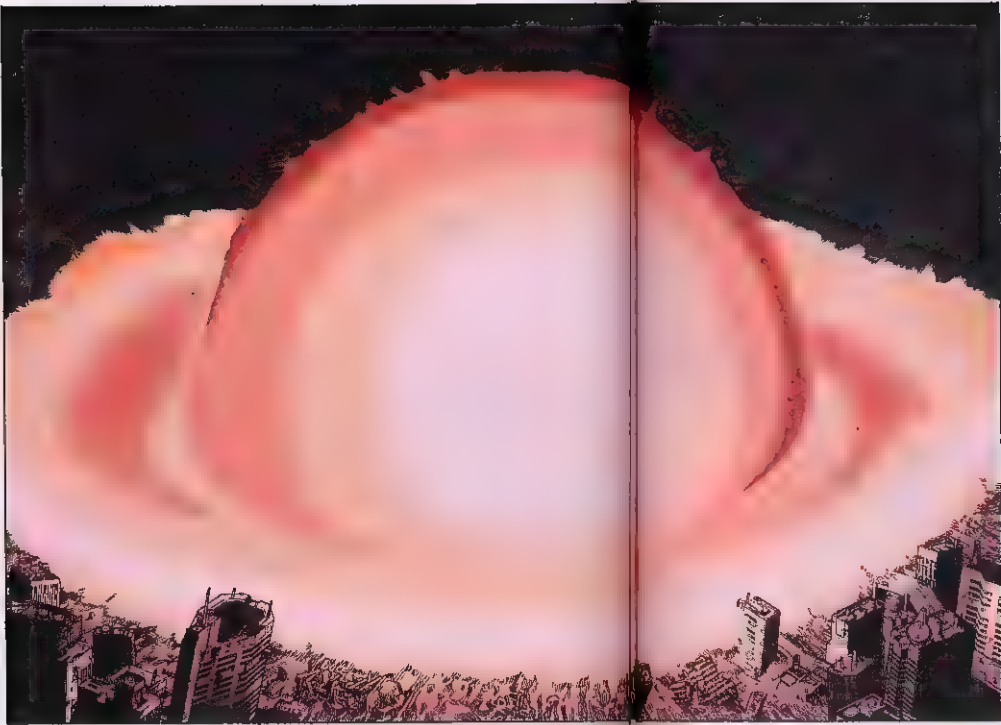


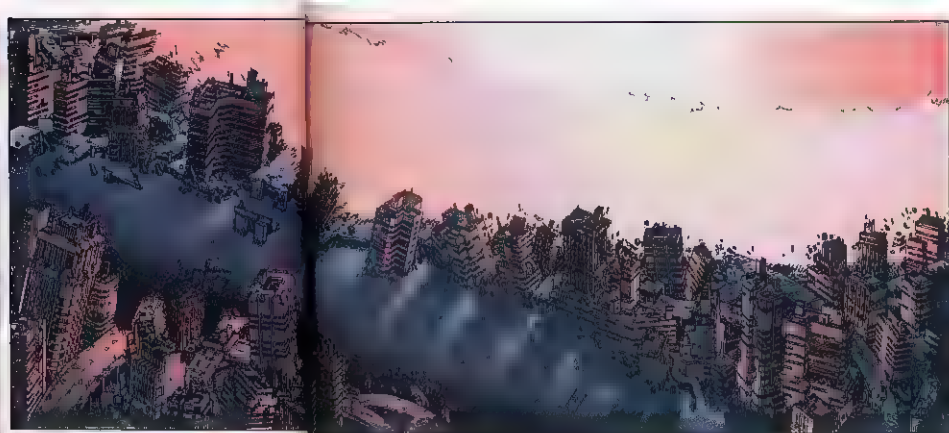
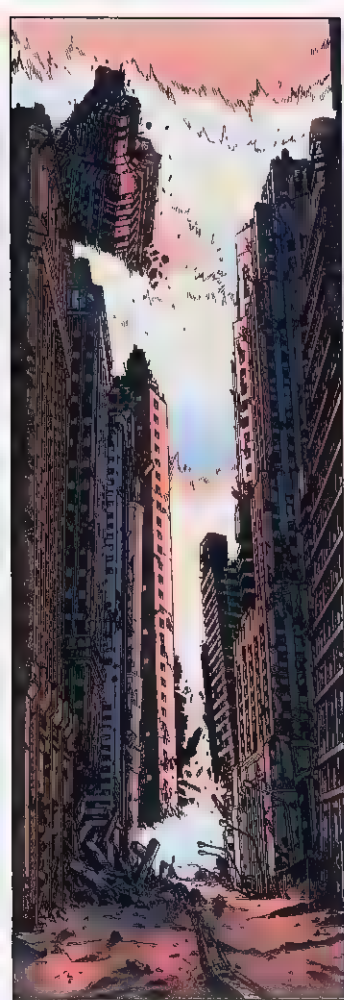






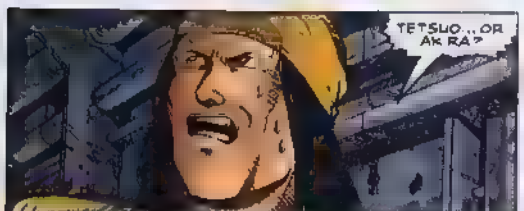




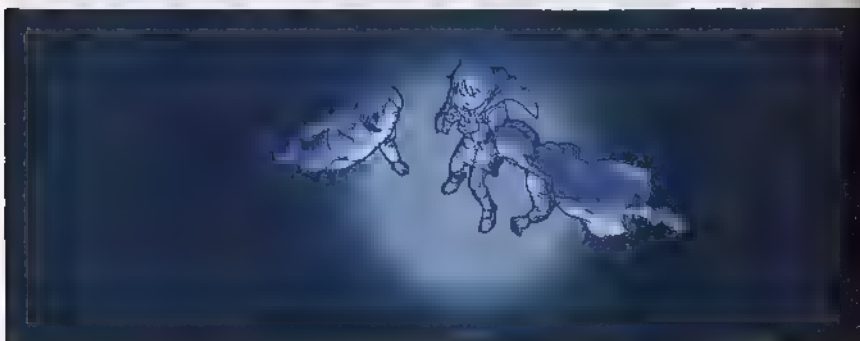
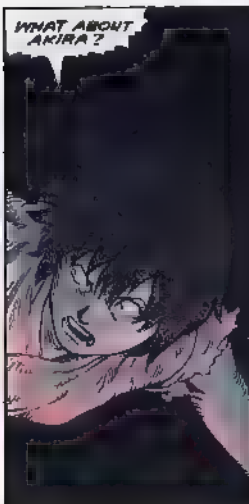


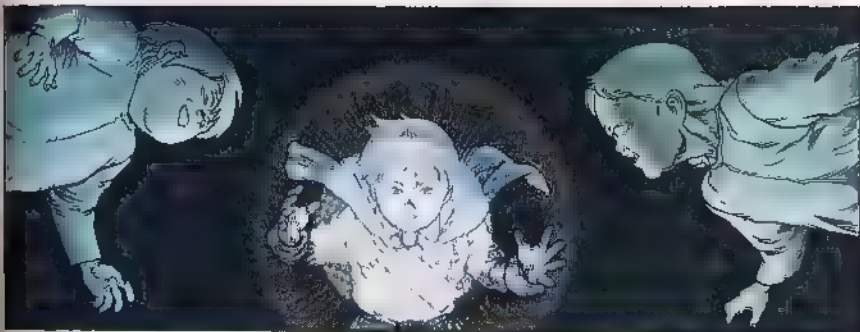
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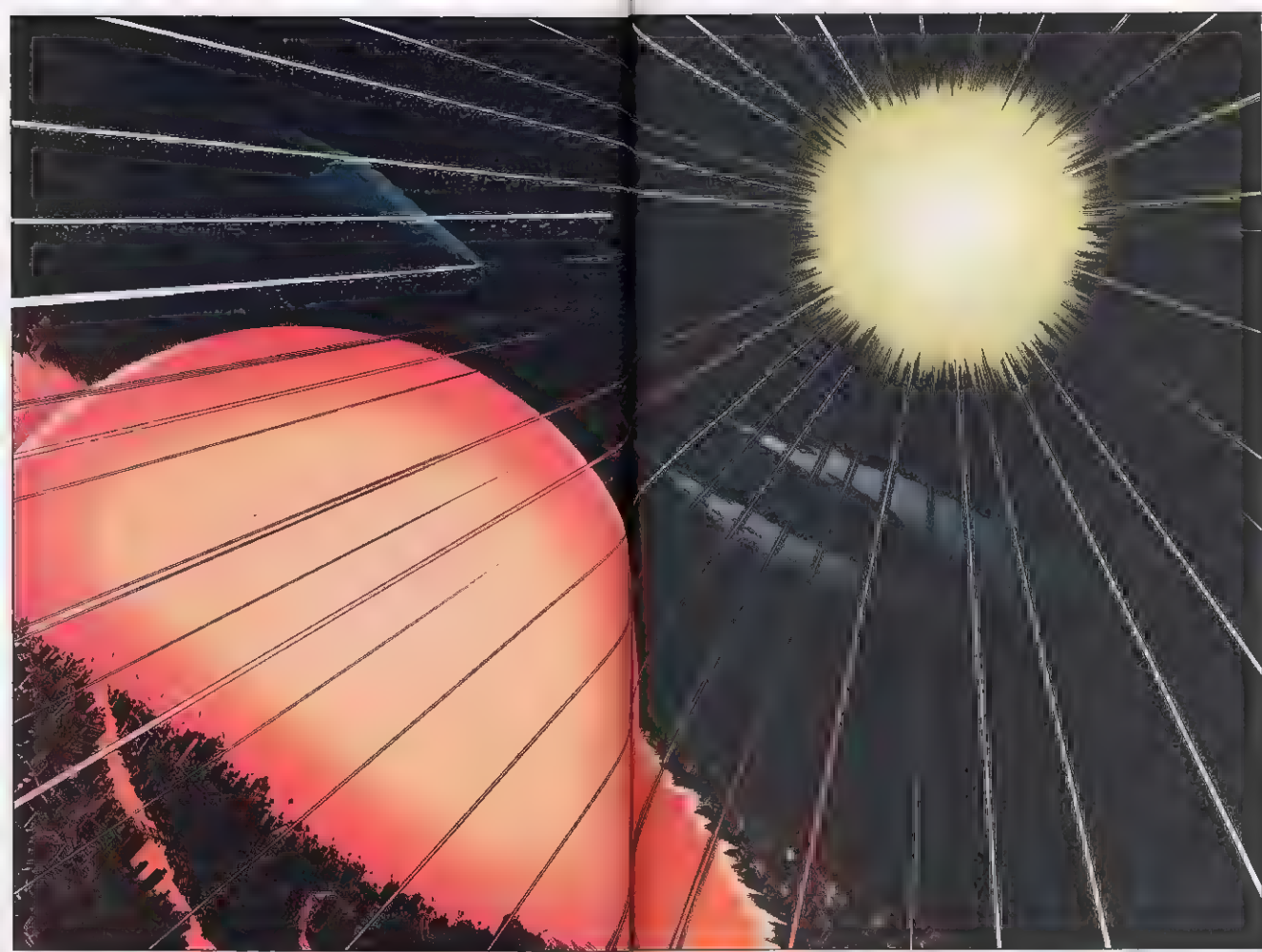


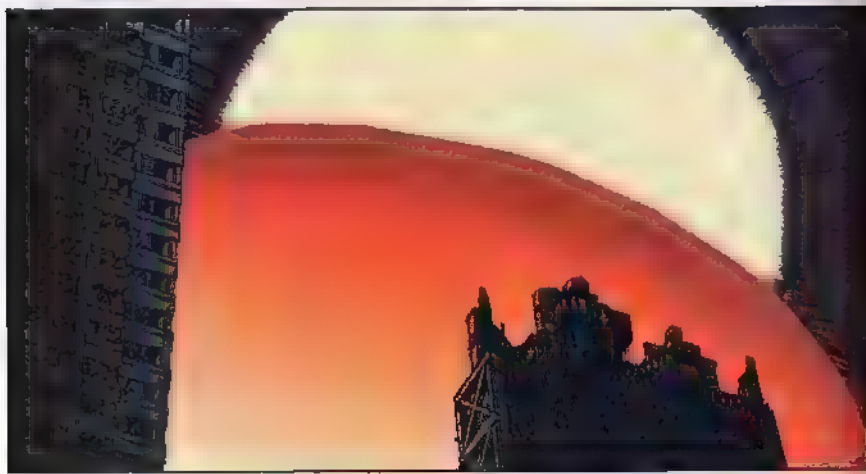
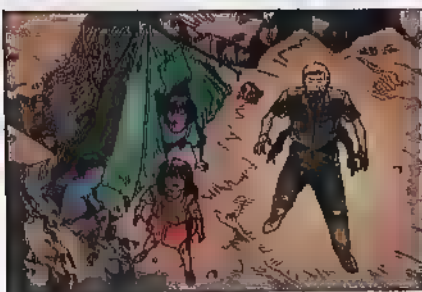
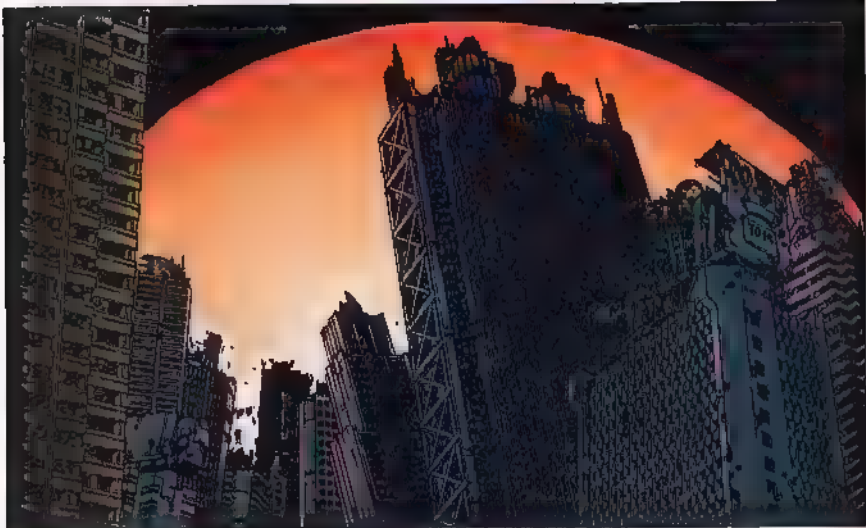


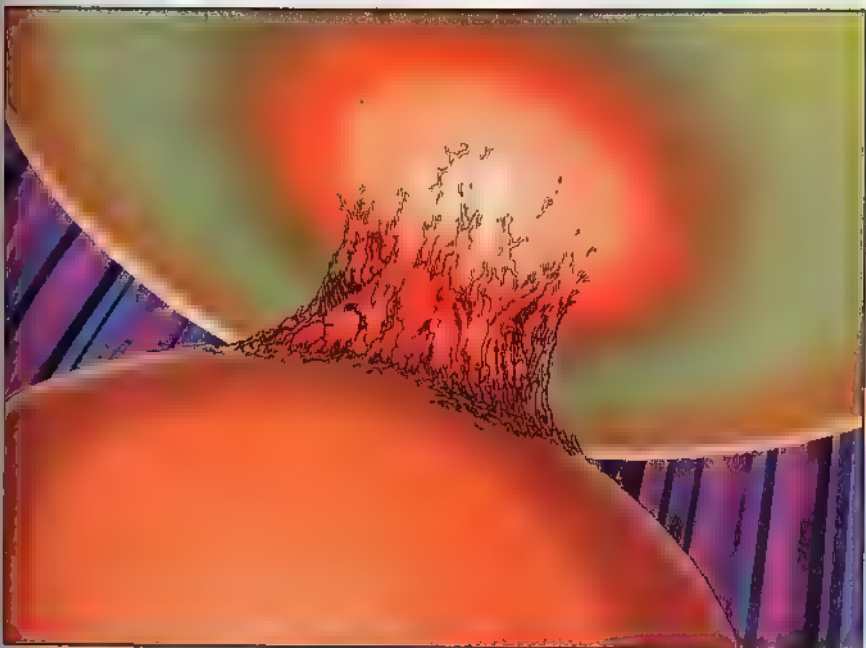
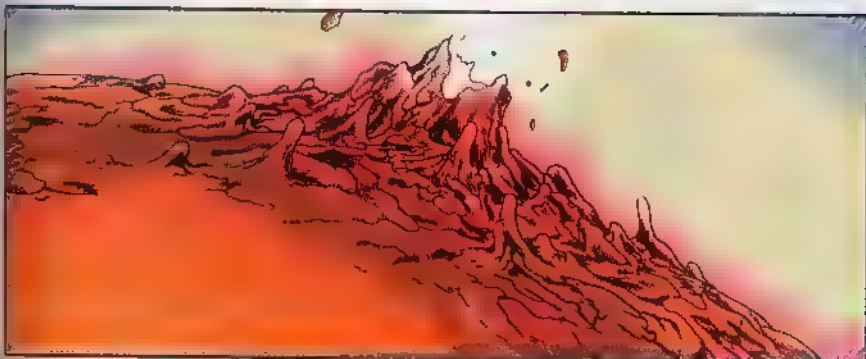
WHAT ABOUT
AKIRA?

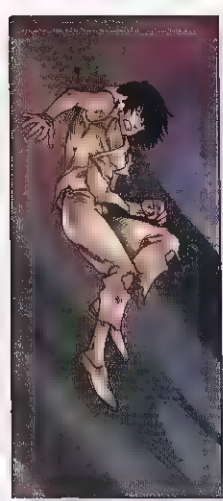




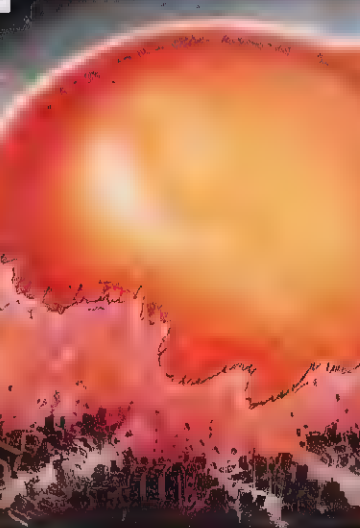
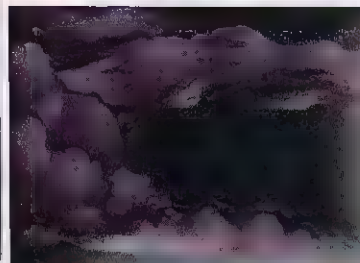
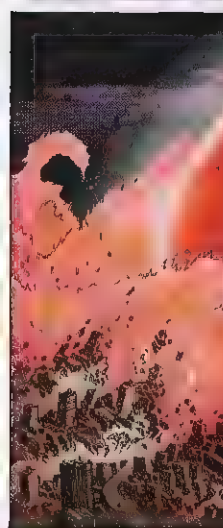
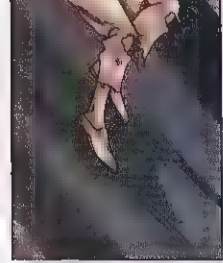


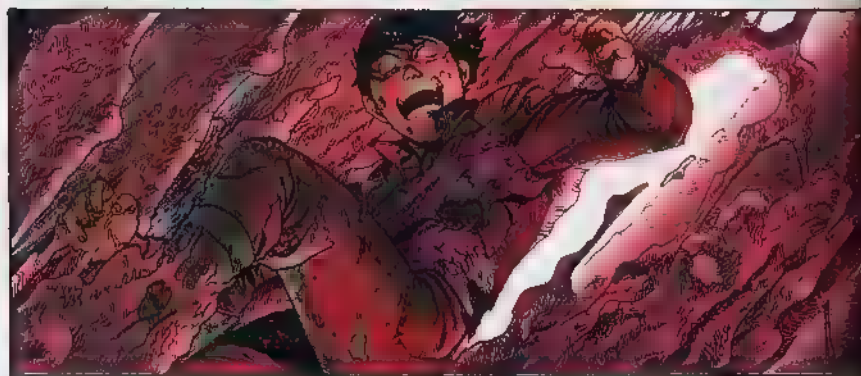
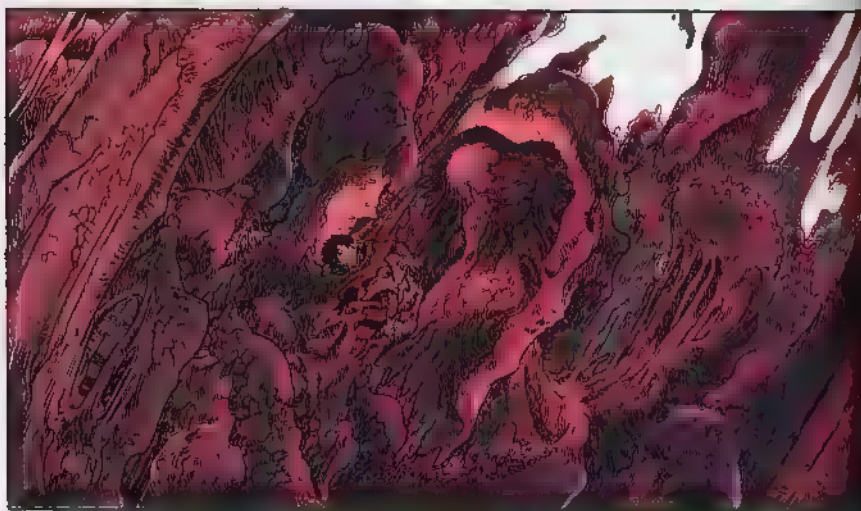
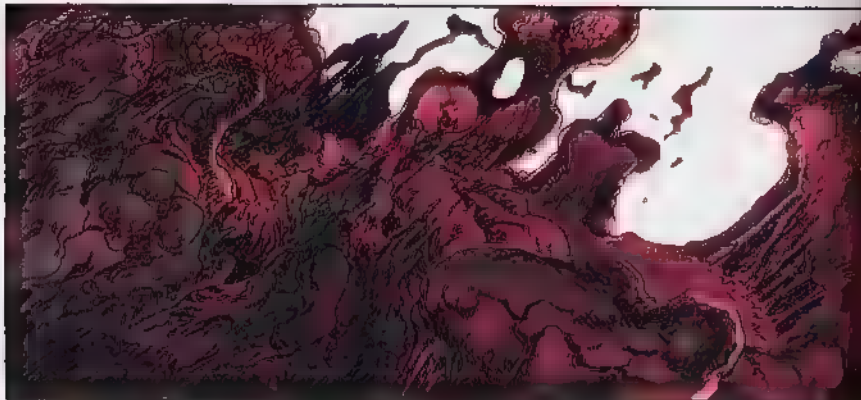


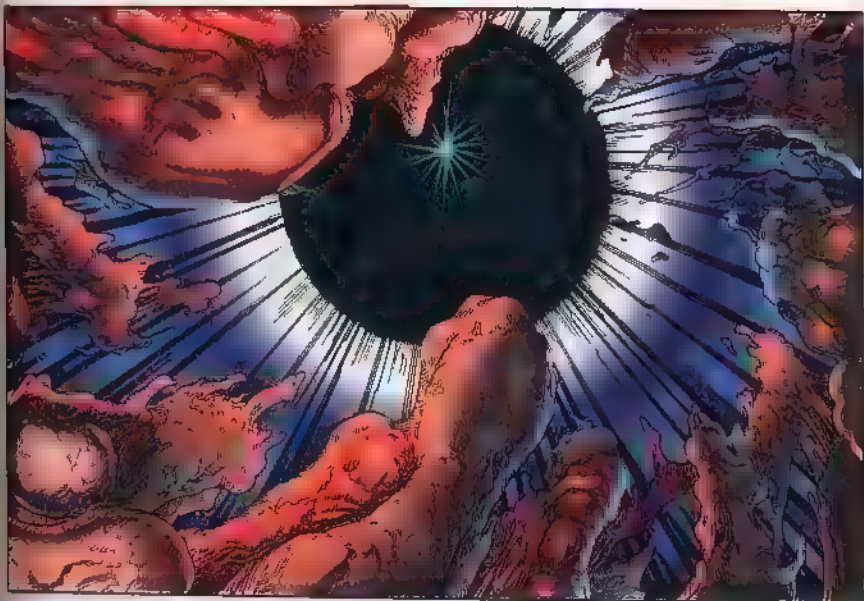




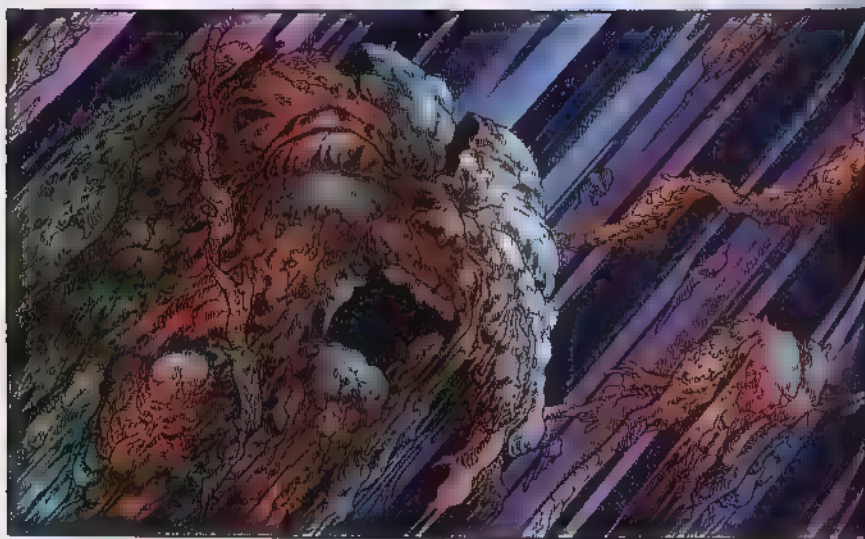
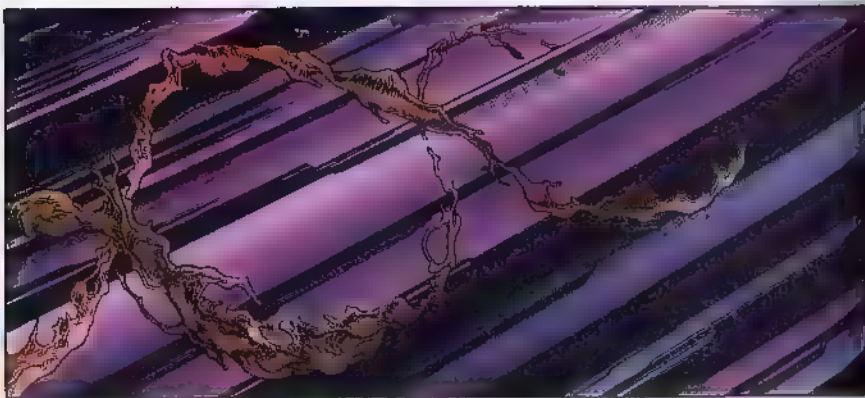
AKIRA IS
SURROUNDING
AND ENGULFING
IT!

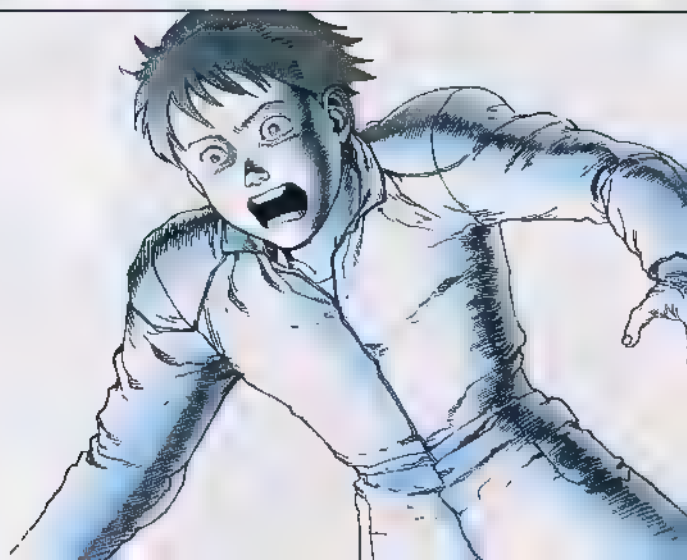
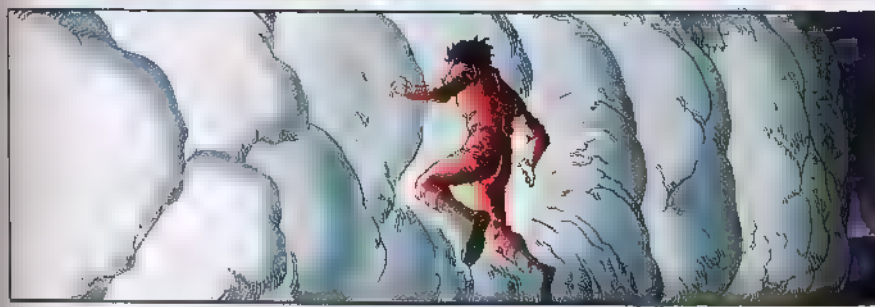
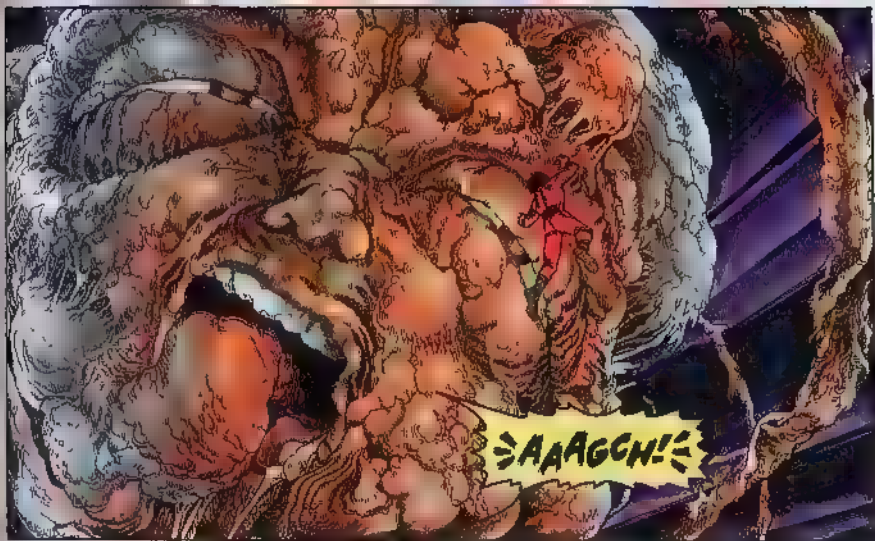












U.S. TETSUO!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

KOR!

MORSE IS THE ONE ALL

RIGHT!

IF THAT'S WHO IT WAS

WE MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ESCAPE THE RESTRANTS YOU PLACED ON HIM

HIS BODY CAN NO LONGER CONTAIN THE BURGEONING POWER, SO IT SEEMS TO POSSESS A GREATER FORM

AREN'T YOU KAY?

WHAT ABOUT THE MOON?

TETSUO... IS THAT YOU?

HA...

WE DAI...

THIS IS THE TIME.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

MURDO...
OR IS REED...
WHY REEDING...

COME ON AND TRY IT, ASSHOLES!

WHY DID YOU?

WHAT?

I'M NOT ALONE.

WE'LL USE PIC 24 "A" INTO YOUR GEAR

AMERICAN SOLDIERS HAVE US UNDER ATTACK.

DID YOU SAY IT'S A DREAM?

THIS IS NO DREAM!

TO CONTROL YOUR POWER YOU MUST FIRST MASTER YOUR OWN WEAKNESS.

LOOK...

I'VE GOT MY ARM BACK

LORD AKIRA!

HAIL, LORD AKIRA!

...LOCATED BENEATH THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEW OLYMPIC STADIUM

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

YOU CAN READ MY THOUGHTS?

IT'S A COMPLETE FRAUDLINE!

BY THE ME HE WAKES, IT WILL BE TOO LATE

ALL OF THIS WILL FADE AWAY.

I REALIZE NOW HE WAS A HERO TO BOTH OF THEM

SOB! SOB!

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AKIRA?!

IT'S AN ILLUSION! ALL OF IT!

AM HERE

HAHHHHH!

AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE

WHAT WAS THAT?

THIS GAS WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH GENETIC ENGINEERING

THESE SOLDIERS ARE THE NEW OLYMPIC STADIUM

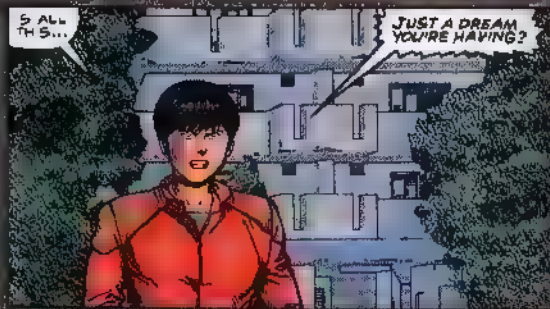




TETSUO...

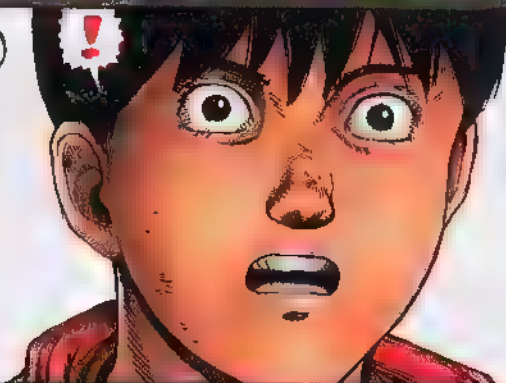


IS ALL
THIS...



JUST A DREAM
YOU'RE HAVING?

ALL OF
HIS LONG-
SUPPRESSED
FEELINGS AND
MEMORIES...

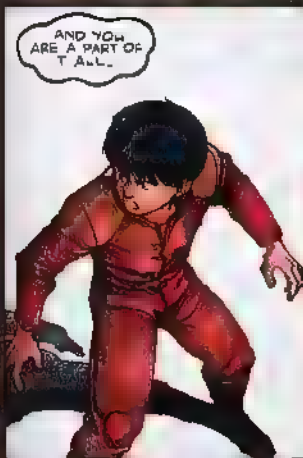


...ARE
BEING RELEASED
AT LAST!

MIYANO!



AND YOU
ARE A PART OF
T ALL..



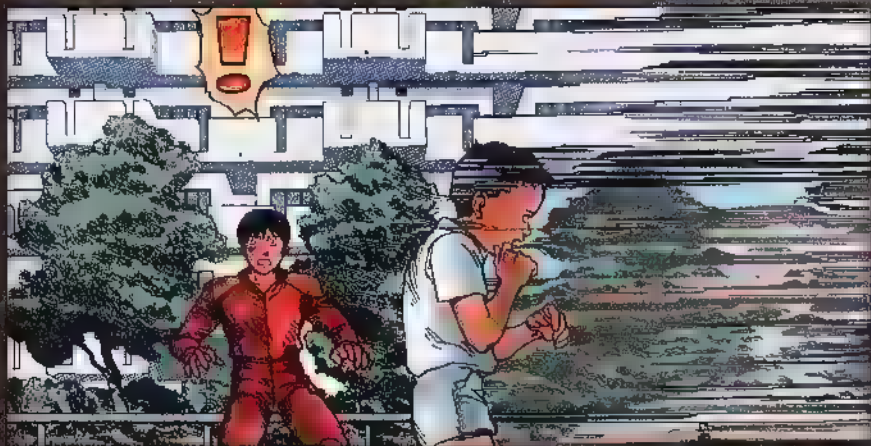
IS TETSUO'S LIFE
FLASHING BEFORE
HIS EYES? LIKE
HE'S GONNA...?

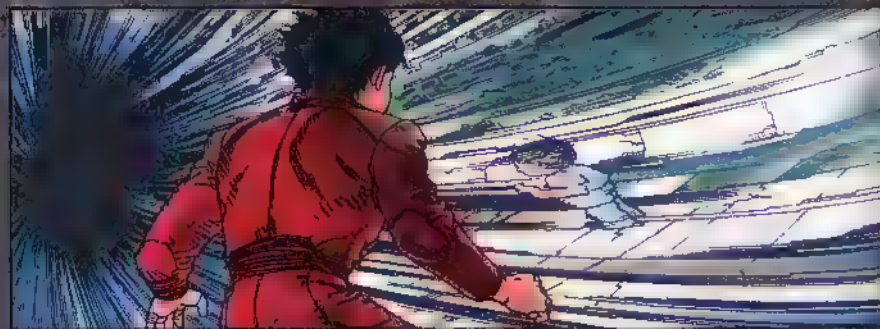


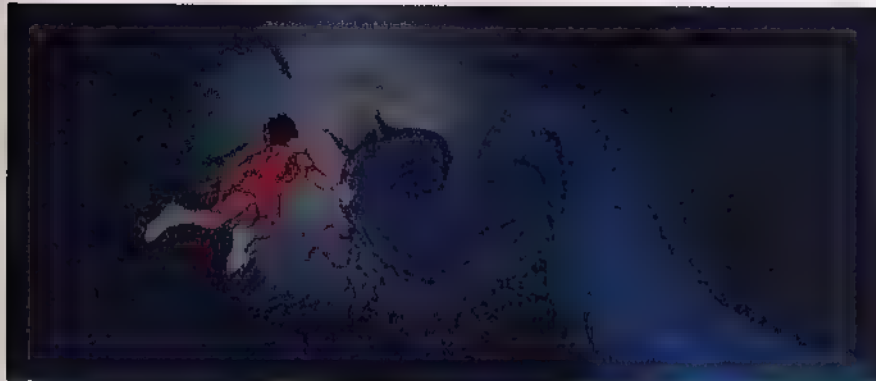
FREED FROM
THE SHACKLES
OF HIS BODY..

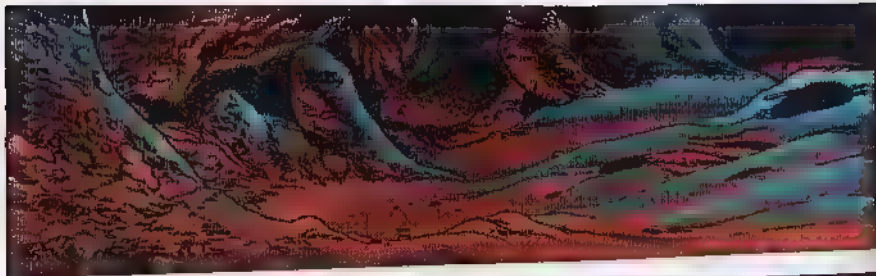


... HIS MIND
HAS REACHED A
SPIRITUAL
PLANE







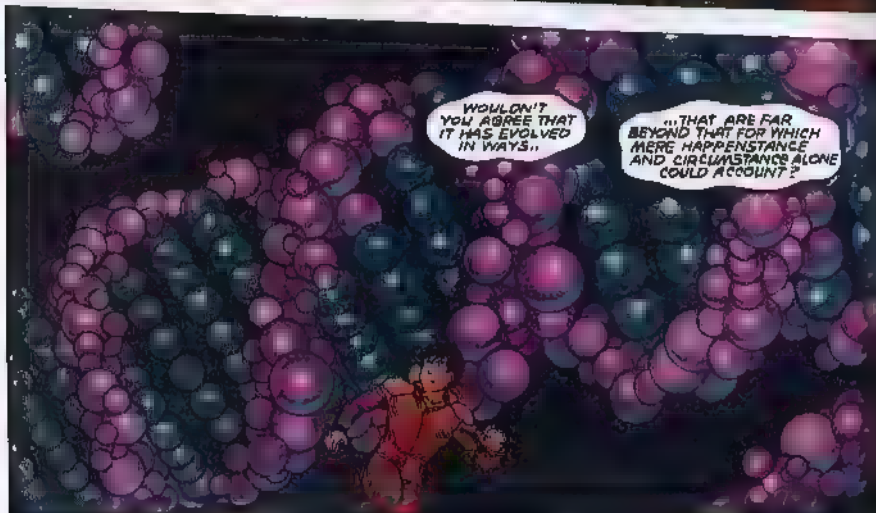


A LIFE
FORM THAT HAS
GROWN AND DEVELOPED
DURING COUNTLESS,
REPETITIOUS
EONS ..



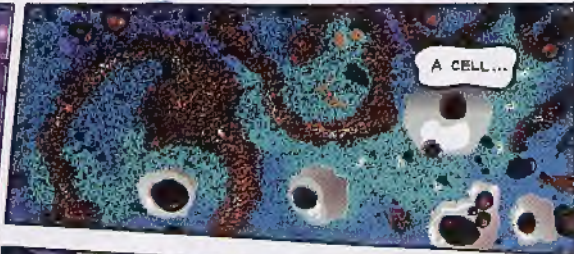
WOULDN'T
YOU AGREE THAT
IT HAS EVOLVED
IN WAYS..

...THAT ARE FAR
BEYOND THAT FOR WHICH
MERE HAPPENSTANCE
AND CIRCUMSTANCE ALONE
COULD ACCOUNT ?





WHAT DO
YOU WANT
ME TO...?



A CELL...



...AND...

...FORMED BY
THE ORGANISM'S
MEMORY OR
MOLECULAR
FORM...



...THE MEMORY
OF AN ENTIRE
UNIVERSE!

Coming next month:
**AKIRA TRIBUTE
ISSUE.**



Featuring art and stories by creators
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John Romita, Jo Duffy, Mark Texiera,
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Terry Shoemaker, Kent Williams,
John Van Fleet, George Pratt, Alex Toth,
Michael Allred, Joe Madureira,
Mark Chiarello and Mitch O'Connell.



KATSUHIRO OTOMO
writer/illustrator

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE
chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

SATOSHI KON
additional artwork

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designer • AKIRA calligraphy

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with the
OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW
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with **LAURA BRADY**
letterers

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MARIE JAVINS
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editor in chief

The end is near, for the signs have come to pass; look, and you may see them, too. In a place dancing with stars, a young girl known as Kay commands a machine that spits down fire born in the sun. A triad of children hovers over the city of Neo-Tokyo, weaving strategies of extraordinary forces. The streets below rumble as mental energies collide with the physical, remaking a world. Cut off from her flock, a leader named Lady Miyako screams of salvation and sacrifice. And inside what was once a boy called Tetsuo, things sinister and spiritual battle for control of a human soul.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION



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